

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A paper feeding apparatus comprising:

a paper feed device comprising:

_____ a paper loading board to load paper obliquely;

_____ an abutting surface arranged in ~~the a~~ lower part of the paper loading board and to which the board, the abutting surface abuts a bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board abuts, board;

_____ a feed roller abutting ~~the abuts a~~ surface of the paper to feed the paper to ~~the a~~ predetermined direction sheet by sheet; and

_____ a manual feed tray openably/closably attached to the paper loading board in an openable/closable manner; board;

a stopper located at a lower position when the paper is fed from the manual feed tray, the stopper arranged to be able to move vertically with respect to the abutting surface to lift up the bottom end of the paper when positioned higher than the abutting surface; and

a stopper drive device ~~to lower~~ lowers the stopper below the abutting surface when the manual feed tray is opened ~~to be capable of~~ for a paper insertion.

2. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper drive device comprises a linking mechanism arranged between the manual feed tray and the stopper to lower the stopper when the manual feed tray is opened for a paper insertion.

3. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 2,

wherein the stopper drive device further comprises:

_____ a rotational shaft facing to the stopper as the linking mechanism; mechanism;
_____ a cam fixed on the rotational shaft, shaft; and
_____ a projection portion fixed on one axial end of the rotational shaft, shaft;
and

wherein the stopper comprises:

_____ a stopper body to which abuts the bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board abuts, board; and

_____ an abutting unit extended extends from the stopper body and abutting on abuts the cam to give provide vertical movement to the stopper body depending on the a position of the cam, cam;

wherein the manual feed tray is constituted to push pushes the projection portion when opened for a paper insertion, and

wherein the cam is constituted to move moves to the another position to lower the stopper body when the projection portion is pushed.

4. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a change detection device to detect a change in the an open/closed state of the manual feed tray; and

a control device operably connected to the stopper drive device to permit the stopper drive device to raise the stopper when the change detection device detects that the state of the manual feed tray has changed from the open state to the closed state.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a change detection device to detect a change in ~~the~~an open/closed state of the manual feed tray; and

a control device operably connected to the stopper drive device to permit the stopper drive device to lower the stopper when detecting that the state of the manual feed tray has changed from the closed state to the open state to permit ~~at~~the paper insertion.

6. (Withdrawn) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the control device permits the stopper drive device to raise the stopper when the change detection device detects that the state of the manual feed tray has changed from the open state to the closed state.

7. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 4,

~~wherein~~ the stopper drive device comprises:further comprising:

~~a rotational shaft facing to the stopper;~~

~~a cam fixed on the rotational shaft,~~

a first gear arranged on one axial end of the rotational shaft to rotate with the ~~rotational shaft,shaft;~~

a second gear geared with the first ~~gear,gear;~~ and

a rotational force transmission device to transmit rotational force given from a driving source to the second ~~gear,gear;~~

~~wherein the stopper comprising:~~

~~a stopper body to which the bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board, and~~

~~an abutting unit extending from the stopper body and abutting on the cam to give vertical movement to the stopper depending on the position of the cam, and~~

wherein the control device drives the driving source so that the cam moves to the a position to lower the stopper body when the manual feed tray is opened to permit a paper insertion, and to the another position to raise the stopper body when the manual feed tray is not open.opened.

8. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the second gear comprises a rotation limit device not to give which does not transmit a rotational force to the first gear in the a descendent direction of the stopper after the stopper lowers.is lowered.

9. (Currently Amended) An image formation apparatus, comprising:
a paper feeding apparatus including:
____ a paper feed device comprising:
____ a paper loading board to load paper obliquely;
____ an abutting surface arranged in the a lower part of the paper loading board and to which the board, the abutting surface abuts a bottom end of paper loaded on the paper loading board abuts,board;
____ a feed roller abutting the a surface of the paper to feed the paper to the a predetermined direction sheet by sheet; and
____ a manual feed tray openably/closably attached to the paper loading board in an openable/closable manner,board;
____ a stopper located at a lower position when the paper is fed from the manual feed tray, the stopper arranged to be able to move vertically with respect to the abutting surface to lift up the bottom end of the paper when positioned higher than the abutting surface; and
____ a stopper drive device to lower lowers the stopper below the abutting surface when the manual feed tray is opened to be capable of for a paper insertion,insertion;

an image formation device which forms an image on the paper;
a paper transfer device ~~to transfer~~ transfers paper fed from the paper feeding apparatus to the image formation device;
a paper detection device arranged in the paper transfer device ~~to detect that~~ detects when paper ~~has been~~ is fed to the paper transfer device; and
a feed control device ~~which~~ drives the paper feeding apparatus to feed the paper on the paper loading board to the paper transfer device when a command to select an automatic paper feed is externally input to select a paper feed from the paper loading board, subsequently drives the paper transfer device to transfer the paper fed from the paper feeding apparatus to the image formation device when the paper detection device detects the presence of paper, and drives the paper transfer device ~~to transfer paper~~ to transfer paper inserted from the manual feed tray to the image formation device.

10. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an opening/closing detection device to detect whether the manual feed tray is open ~~to permit a paper insertion; for inserting paper;~~ and
a first annunciation device operably connected to the image formation apparatus ~~which forbids~~ prohibits the process of the feed control device and announces that paper is jammed within the image formation apparatus when ~~the~~ a command to select an automatic paper feed is input, if the opening/closing detection device detects that the manual feed tray is not open and the paper detection device detects the presence of paper.

11. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an opening/closing detection device to detect whether the manual feed tray is open ~~to permit a paper insertion; for inserting paper;~~ and

a ~~second~~ first annunciation device ~~to announce~~ announces a requirement for a paper insertion from the manual feed tray when ~~the-a~~ command to select a manual paper feed is externally input, ~~and~~ if the opening/closing detection device detects that the manual feed tray is open to permit ~~a~~the paper insertion, and if the paper detection device detects that paper has not been fed.

12. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an opening/closing detection device to detect whether the manual feed tray is open to permit ~~a~~the paper insertion;

a command input device for ~~inputting a feed initiation to input, by an operation of a user, a command, the~~ feed initiation command ~~to initiate~~ initiates a paper feed from the manual feed tray; and

a ~~third~~ first annunciation device to announce a requirement for an input of the feed initiation command when ~~the-a~~ command to select a manual paper feed is externally input, if the opening/closing detection device detects that the manual feed tray is open to permit ~~a~~the paper insertion, and the paper detection device detects the presence of paper, ~~and~~ wherein the feed control device allows the paper transfer device to initiate a paper transfer when the feed initiation command is ~~input~~ inputted from the command input device ~~for feed initiation by an operation of a user device~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a change detection device,

wherein ~~the~~a driving source which drives the paper transfer device is ~~constituted to be able~~ is configured to execute a predetermined preprocess other than a paper transfer prior to an image formation when driving the paper transfer device in ~~the~~ an opposite direction to a direction of paper ~~transfer~~ transfer; and

~~further comprising a change detection device,~~
~~wherein the feed control device executes the preprocess by driving the driving~~
source in the opposite direction when the change detection device detects that ~~the-a~~ state of
the manual feed tray has changed from ~~the-a~~ closed state to ~~the-an~~ open state to permit ~~a~~the
paper insertion.

14. (Original) A storage medium for storing control program to achieve the functions of the change detection device and the control device of the paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 4 by a computer processing.

15. (Original) A storage medium for storing control program to achieve the functions of the paper detection device, opening/closing detection device and the first annunciation device of the image formation according to Claim 10 by a computer processing.

16. (Original) A storage medium for storing control program to achieve the functions of the paper detection device, the opening/closing detection device and the second annunciation device of the image formation according to Claim 11 by a computer processing.

17. (Original) A storage medium for storing control program to achieve the functions of the paper detection device, the opening/closing detection device, the third annunciation device and the feed control device of the image formation apparatus according to Claim 12 by a computer processing.

18. (Original) A storage medium for storing control program to achieve the functions of the change detection device, the preprocess execution device and the feed control device of the image formation according to Claim 13 by a computer processing.

19. (New) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper raises and lowers each time the paper is fed from the paper loading board.